THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: This valuable suggestion of the hon. Member will be quite well appreciated not only by the Government but by all the other hon. Members in this House. Government will start this course in the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education and then they will see.

Attappadi Valley forest

* 139-A Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have sent any communication to the Centre during the year 1956 requesting that Attappadi Valley forest in Malabar be transferred to Madras after the States Re-organization; and

(b) whether the Government have received any reply from the Centre?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (a) Yes, Sir. In January 1956, the Government made a request to the Government of India that the block of forests covering about 24 square miles of land in the Attappady Block VI in the present Malabar district should be retained in the Madras State after the States are re-organized.

(b) No, Sir.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: May I know whether this Government have received any reply to that?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: No, Sir.

Celebration of Buddha's 2,500th Birthday

* 139-B Q.—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether this Government propose to celebrate the 2,500th birthday of Lord Buddha;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of expenditure for the said celebrations; and

(c) whether it is a fact that death sentence is proposed to be suspended for a year in this State; in commemoration of the said celebrations?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (a) & (b) A Special Exhibition of Buddhist antiquities was held in the Centenary Exhibition Hall in the Government Museum, Madras. It was inaugurated by the President of India on 27th May 1956 and an expenditure of Rs. 8,150 was incurred in this connexion. The Government also sanctioned the supply, free of cost, of a sweet and pongal to the inmates of the several Indian Boarding Homes, Orphanages, Borstal and Certified Schools, Remand Homes, etc. One sweet and pongal was also supplied to all prisoners in connexion with the celebrations.

(c) No, Sir.